



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE

June 1, 2000

H.R. 3293

An act to amend the law that authorized the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to authorize the placement within the site of the memorial of a plaque to honor those Vietnam veterans who died after their service in the Vietnam war, but as a result of that service

As cleared by the Congress on May 25, 2000

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3293 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Because the act could affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. We estimate, however, that any such effects would be minimal.

H.R. 3293 would authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to place within the Vietnam Veterans Memorial a plaque honoring certain veterans who died after their service in the Vietnam war. A private organization would design and construct the plaque in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act and without cost to the federal government. Under the Commemorative Works Act, any organization that receives a permit to construct a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs must deposit an amount equal to 10 percent of the memorial's estimated construction cost in the U.S. Treasury. The funds deposited are then available without further appropriation for maintenance and preservation of the memorial.

Based on information provided by the National Park Service (NPS), CBO estimates that the federal government would receive a deposit of less than \$100,000 once the plaque has been installed. The NPS would then spend a portion of this amount each year to maintain the memorial. Based on experience with similar commemorative projects, CBO expects that no amounts would be received or spent by the federal government for several years after the bill is enacted. In any case, the collections and spending would offset each other over time.

The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.